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Page 2

In the Claims

Please amend the claims under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ hepatitis C virus infection in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a DEAD-box protein capable of specifically binding to the HCV core protein so as to inhibit hepatitis C virus replication.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatitis C virus infects the liver of the subject.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatitis C virus infects the liver of a human.

4.-8. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DEAD-box protein comprises a DEAD-box RNA helicase.
5. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the DEAD-box RNA helicase comprises a human DEAD-box protein DBX or a variant thereof.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the human DEAD-box protein DBX comprises amino acids having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the variant of the human DEAD-box protein DBX comprises amino

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Applicants: Howard J. Worman and Nacto Mamiya  
Serial No.: 09/407,432  
Filed : September 29, 1996  
Page 3

acids having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2.

~~8.13.~~

(Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the variant of the human DEAD-box protein DBX comprises amino acids having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:3.

~~9.14.~~

(Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the variant of the human DEAD-box protein DBX comprises 100-200 amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:3.

15.-71. (Cancelled).